(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure reasonable price to rubber cultivators; and

(d) how the Government ensure that the support price declared by them is obtained by the cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) There has been no decline in the price of Natural Rubber. A Buffer Stocking Scheme is being operated with a view to maintaining the natural rubber prices within a range which is remunerative to the rubber growers and fair to the user industry. A Bench Mark Price is fixed from time to time for natural rubber with an upper and a lower ceiling. The Buffer Stocking Scheme also provides for procurement of natural rubber from the domestic market when the price tends to go below a reasonable level.

[*Translation*]

COURT CASES AGAINST DTC EMPLOYEES

1362. SHRI KALKA DASS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 613 on 15 March, 1990 and state :

(a) whether the cases filed against the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) employees and the leaders of their Union in connection with March, 1988 strike are still pending for decision in the court;

(b) if so, the number of persons who are still facing such cases;

(c) whether any steps are being taken by the Government to withdraw these cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Out of 43 cases registered in connection with DTC strike in March, 1988, 8 cases have been decided. 35 cases involving 311 persons are still pending.

(c) and (d). Delhi Administration have informed that they have recommended to Director of Prosecution for withdrawal of 29 cases. 4 cases involving offences of serious nature have not been recommended for withdrawal. The remaining 2 cases will be considered in the next meeting of the Screening Committee of Delhi Administration.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

[*English*]

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR AROOR-ARUKUTTY BRIDGE

1363. SHRI T. J. ANJALOSE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have given any financial assistance from Central Road Fund for Aroor-Arukutty bridge in Aleppey District, Kerala;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the construction of the bridge has since started; and

(d) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for starting the construction of the bridge at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 265.00 lakhs was approved for the construction of Aroor-Arukutty bridge from Central Road Fund in April, 1989.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As this bridge falls on a State Road, its construction is responsibility of the State Govt. They have informed that pre-qualification of contractors is presently under scrutiny.

MAINTENANCE OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND IMPROVEMENT OF SANITATION PROGRAMMES BY CANTONMENT BOARDS

1364. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether instructions have been issued by the Directorate of Defence Estates under Central Command to its various Cantonment Boards for proper maintenance of essential services and improving sanitation programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether legal notices concerning any particular Cantonment Board etc. have been received by the Directorate during the past six months ending on 31 July, 1991; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued from time to time by the Director of Defence Estates, Central Command, Lucknow, to the Cantonment Boards under the Command for the proper maintenance of services and improvement of sanitation facilities in the Cantonment areas.

(c) and (d) In December 1990, a public interest writ petition before the Ranchi Bench of Patna High Court was filed by Shri Yugal Prasad Jaiswal to issue direction to the Ministry of Defence (Director General of Defence Estates), Government of Bihar, the GOC-in-C, Central Command (Defence Estates), and the Cantonment Board, Ramgarh for the conversion of 13 dry type public latrines in Ramgarh Cantonment, constructed in 1953, into water borne flush type by the Cantonment Board. This matter is still sub-judice.

INVESTIGATIONS INTO MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT LANDED PROPERTIES AT CANTONMENT BOARD, KANPUR.

1365. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government auditors had in 1984 made certain observations regarding the misuse of Government landed properties bearing survey No. 504 to Contonment Board, Kanpur;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken by the Directorate of Defence Estates, Lucknow and appropriate authorities in Kanpur on the auditors observations;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Local Audit Officer, through a letter of 4-7-84, had raised an objection on the conversion of a portion of a site bearing Survey No. 504, Kanpur Cantonment, recorded as Public Garden (Mahatma Gandhi Park), into commercial use by the Cantonment Board without requisite Government approval. The Cantonment Board and the Defence Estates authorities had taken up the matter with their higher authorities for obtaining Government sanction to use the portion of the site for commercial purposes in order to regularise the matter.

(c) and (d) : Do not arise.

[Translation]

DECLARATION OF ROADS AS NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

1366. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA : DR. C. SILVERA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the names of roads declared as National Highways during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : The details of roads included in the National Highway grid during the last three years in different states are as under, *viz.*

S. No.	N.H. No.	Name of the Road	State	Length (in kms)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	11-A	Link Road from Manoharpura on N.H. 8 to Dausa on N.H. 11. . .	Rajasthan	64
2.	14	Beawar-Sirohi-Kandla Road. . .	Rajasthan	310
			Gujarat	140